

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An airbreathing fuel cell comprising
_____ end plates,
_____ a unit cell disposed between the two end plates,
_____ a fuel distribution manifold disposed centrally of the unit cell to supply a fuel to the unit cell,
_____ a single tie bolt extending centrally through the fuel distribution manifold and through the unit cell to untie these elements,
_____ fixing nuts screwed onto both ends of the tie bolt to integrally clamp the unit cell between the end plates ~~with O-rings or the like therebetween,~~ and
_____ a cell stack formed by stacking a plurality of these said unit cells, which comprise a solid polymer electrolyte membrane, an oxygen passage plate and a fuel electrode, which are provided on both sides of the solid polymer electrolyte membrane to be opposed to each other, the oxygen passage plate provided adjacent and toward the oxygen electrode, and
_____ separator plates provided adjacent and outside the oxygen passage plate and the fuel electrode, and

_____ wherein the fuel distribution manifold is formed into a rod-shaped body having a polygonal-shaped cross section, _____ a fuel supply passage is formed in the tie bolt, and _____ a plurality of fuel distribution passages are provided to be communicated to the fuel supply passage and formed between central holes of the unit cells and an outer peripheral surface of the fuel distribution manifold.

2. (Original) The airbreathing fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein the fuel distribution manifold comprises radial cut grooves formed on both axial ends thereof, and a fuel is supplied to the unit cells through the cut grooves and the fuel distribution passages from an end of the fuel distribution manifold.

3. (Original) The airbreathing fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein the fuel supply passage in the tie bolt extends from both ends of the tie bolt to positions on both ends of the cell stack along a central axis of the tie bolt and radially in the positions on both ends of the cell stack to be communicated to the fuel distribution passages.

4. (Original) The airbreathing fuel cell according to claim 2, wherein the fuel supply passage in the tie bolt extends from both ends of the tie bolt to positions on both ends of the cell stack along a central axis of the tie bolt and

radially in the positions on both ends of the cell stack to be communicated to the fuel distribution passages.

5. (Original) The airbreathing fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein the fuel distribution passages have a substantially sector-shaped cross section and extend axially along the fuel distribution manifold.

6. (Original) The airbreathing fuel cell according to claim 2, wherein the fuel distribution passages have a substantially sector-shaped cross section and extend axially along the fuel distribution manifold.

7. (Original) The airbreathing fuel cell according to claim 3, wherein the fuel distribution passages have a substantially sector-shaped cross section and extend axially along the fuel distribution manifold.

8. (Original) The airbreathing fuel cell according to claim 4, wherein the fuel distribution passages have a substantially sector-shaped cross section and extend axially along the fuel distribution manifold.

9. (New) The airbreathing fuel cell of claim 1, further comprising O-rings between the end plates and the unit cell.